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Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 EA-13 NSC-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 DRC-01 EB-03 /072 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2166
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 21333

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CB, GW, UN, EEC
SUBJECT: EC NINE ASIAN EXPERTS MEETING SEPTEMBER 6

REF: (A) STATE 196859 (B) PARIS 21156

SUMMARY: AT SEPTEMBER 6 EC-NINE ASIAN EXPERTS MEETING

IN PARIS PARTICIPANTS TOUCHED ON PROBLEMS FROM AFGHANISTAN TO AUSTRALIA, BUT CONVERSATION WAS CONCENTRATED ON INDIAN SUBCONTINENT (PARTICULARLY BANGLADESH), KOREA AND CAMBODIA. THERE WAS MERELY
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AN INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON BANGLADESH'S

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ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND AID PROSPECTS. PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF FINDING A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD AVOID A CONFRONTATION OVER KOREA IN THE UNGA, BUT NOTED SOME PROBLEMS WITH EXISTING "FRIENDLY" RESOLUTION. SOME BASIC DISAGREEMENTS OVER KHMER PROBLEM WILL RESULT IN ITS BEING CARRIED TO "POLITICAL DIRECTORS" LEVEL. SOURCE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXPERTS' MEETINGS AS CURRENTLY HELD. END SUMMARY

1. NON-FRENCH PARTICIPANT GAVE EMBOFF GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT EC-NINE EXPERTS MEETING HELD IN PARIS SEPTEMBER 6. FRENCH CHAIRMAN, QUAI ASIAN DIRECTOR FROMENT-MEURICE, BEGAN AND ENDED PROCEEDINGS WITH FIRM ADMONITION THAT NONE OF MATTERS DISCUSSED AND PARTICULARLY VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE REVEALED TO ANY OTHER THAN EC OFFICIALS. REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES CONSIDER FRENCH POSITION SOMEWHAT EXTREME, BUT FEEL REQUIRED TO RESPECT THESE RULES OF THE GAME. U.S. OFFICIALS SHOULD THEREFORE EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION IN REFERRING TO EVEN LIMITED ACCOUNT BELOW.

2. THERE WAS PRACTICALLY NO DISCUSSION OF CHINA OR JAPAN. SOME TWO HOURS WERE DEVOTED TO THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT, PARTICULARLY BANGLADESH. MUCH OF THE REST OF THE DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO THE TWO PRINCIPAL ASIAN PROBLEMS BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS: KOREA AND CAMBODIA.

3. BANGLADESH: SOURCE SAID THAT THE CONVERSATION ABOUT BANGLADESH WAS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO EVALUATION OF BANGLADESH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND AID NEEDS AND EACH COUNTRY'S AID PROGRAM. SOURCE COMMENTED THAT VERY LITTLE NEW INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED, NO REAL INSIGHTS WERE PRODUCED, AND NO EVOLUTION TOWARD COMMON POLICIES OCCURRED. HE CONSIDERED THE TWO HOURS TO BE TYPICAL OF THE RELATIVELY FRUITLESS CONVERSATIONS WHICH TAKE PLACE IN THESE MEETINGS WHEN THERE IS NO SPECIFIC EUROPEAN ACTION REQUIRED TO FOCUS THE DISCUSSION.

4. KOREA: ALL THE EC PARTICIPANTS WERE AWARE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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KOREAN RESOLUTION PRODUCED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK). ALL THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUPPORTED THE EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT SOME COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD INSURE THE WITHDRAWAL OR DEFEAT OF THE RESOLUTION FAVORING NORTH KOREA. THEY HAD DIFFERING VIEWS CONCERNING ASPECTS OF THE WORDING OF THE ACTUAL SEPTEMBER 3 RESOLUTION; GERMANS AND FRENCH PARTICULARLY QUESTIONED THE ACCEPTABILITY TO THE PRC -- A PRIME

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CONCERN OF PARTICIPANTS -- OF THE REFERENCE TO THE UN'S CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY IN KOREA (REF A).

5. CAMBODIA: VIEWS ON CAMBODIA WERE MORE DIVIDED. WHILE ALL WISHED BASICALLY FOR SOME COMPROMISE SOLUTION, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MAINTENANCE OF THE GKR IN THE UN WAS DISPUTED. SOURCE CONSIDERED FRENCH HAD MADE CLEAR THEIR DISTATE FOR THE GKR AND HAD MINIMIZED THE EFFECTS OF A GRUNK VICTORY IN THE UN -- PERHAPS ALONG

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CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 EB-03 DRC-01 /072 W
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THE LINES INDICATED IN REF B.

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6. SOURCE CONSIDERED THAT EXPERTS' MEETINGS, PARTICULARLY WHEN NOT VIGOROUSLY CONTROLLED BY CHAIRMAN, DEGENERATED INTO AIMLESS DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH EACH PARTICIPANT ATTEMPTED TO INDICATE THAT HE KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THE SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION. ALTHOUGH A CONSENSUS SOMETIMES DID EMERGE, PROBLEMS OFTEN WERE NOT SOLVED. DIFFERENCES AMONG THE EXPERTS WERE OFTEN FORWARDED TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' LEVEL, BUT THESE DIRECTORS WERE OFTEN TOO FAR FROM THE FACTS AND INSENSITIVE TO REALITIES SO THAT THEY WERE USUALLY UNABLE
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TO MAKE CORRECT DECISIONS. IN GENERAL, SOURCE CONSIDERED THAT EC MECHANISMS FOR HANDLING ASIAN PROBLEMS WERE NOT AS YET VERY EFFECTIVE, BUT FORTUNATELY ASIAN PROBLEMS WERE NOT YET IMPORTANT FOR THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH. SOURCE FOUND BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS IN WHICH HE COMPARED NOTES WITH THOSE OF SIMILAR EXPERTISE IN THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS -- WHO UNDERTOOK TO MOVE THEIR OWN BUREAUCRACIES -- WERE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE LARGER FORUM WHICH RESEMBLED MORE AN ACADEMIC SEMINAR THAN A DIPLOMATIC PROCESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION, MEETING AGENDA, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS21333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740251-0970
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740960/aaaabyhj.tel
Line Count: 197
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) STATE 196859 (B) PARIS 21156
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC NINE ASIAN EXPERTS MEETING SEPTEMBER 6
TAGS: PFOR, CB, GE, UN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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